

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Amendments to Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4, and also to limit the optical path to just four surfaces. The recitation of light impinging on just four surfaces (not including the light valve) is supported by the description in lines 27-34 on page 3 of the original specification, as well as by original Fig. 3.

Claims 11 and 12, indicated in item 3 on page 2 of the Official Action as being allowed, include only formal changes.

2. Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 8 Under 35 USC §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,461,000 (Magarill)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Magarill patent discloses a **dual prism arrangement** similar to that shown in Applicant's Figs. 1 and 2, in which light from the light source passes through six surfaces as it passes from the light source to the light valve, and from the light valve to the projection lens. In contrast, claim 1 is now limited to the **single prism arrangement** of Figs. 3 and 4, in which the light passes through **only four** surfaces as it passes from the light source to the light valve (two surfaces between the light source and the light valve, and two surfaces between the light valve and the projection lens). By minimizing the number of prism surfaces in the optical path, the claimed invention minimizes reflection and transmission losses, while results in a more compact structure (compare Figs. 2 and 4 of the present application).

Because Magarill patent does not disclose all elements recited in claims 1-3 and 5, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102(b) is respectfully requested.

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Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

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